

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – May 9 - 13, 2011  
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Welcome interpreters working in educational settings from the edterp listserv to Deaf Culture Question of the Week. Carol Carruthers asked that I add your listserv group to this weekly email. I hope you will enjoy this edition. For past editions going back to January 2008 visit our WSD website.

Who was the deaf person who won an Olympic Gold Medal in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney Australia?

- a. Kenny Walker
- b. Terrence Parkin
- c. Paul Hubbard
- d. Curtis Pride

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: “b” – Born deaf, sport enthusiast Terrence Parkin hopped in the water at age 12 to begin a career that took him to the Olympics. Using sign language to communicate with his swimming coach, he set the African records for both the 200 and 400 meters individual medley.

When he began swimming, he couldn’t hear the starting tone for his races, so his coach would stand on the sidelines and sign “Go!” (Technology today uses the flash of lights to signal the start.)

At the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Parkin finished the 200 meter breaststroke and looked up to see a “2” on the scoreboard next to his name. He’d been swimming in lane 2 and didn’t realize for a moment that he had just won a silver medal against hearing competitors!

Parkin managed to stay in top shape and finish even stronger in the 2005 Deaflympics, where he brought home two gold medals.

Today, Parkin is married and enjoys painting when he isn’t coaching both deaf and hearing kids in swimming at the Parkin-Widex swimming academy, a venture he founded with the hearing aid manufacturer. (Accessed and quoted from: <http://www.disaboom.com/athletes-with-disabilities/deaf-sports-famous-deaf-athletes>, May 8, 2011)

Note: All previous issues of DCQW are archived at the Washington School for the Deaf website: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>